



REGULAR MEETING: Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will next meet on **Monday March 8th** in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm but the room is available to us at 7:30 pm so come early and chat with old friends and see what you and others have on the Show Table.



The program speaker will be **Michael J. Colella** who will give a presentation on the ancient **Asian Art of Viewing Stones**, also referred to as Suiseki, Scholars Rocks and Gongshi.



Suiseki is the Art of Viewing Stones which has been found in records as far back as the 6th century in Asia. These stones vary in size from palm size to massive boulders. Michael will trace some of the history and the later spread of viewing stones to the US & other countries and current activities. He will also bring samples from his own collection.

Careful, viewing stones can be addictive!

Michael has been collecting stones since childhood and still enjoys the many aspects of the hobby. He is current President of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of DC. Michael has been a freelance photographer in the DC area for over 35 years. (Specimen Photos by Speaker)



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet on **March 15th** at the home of Andy Muir at 7:30 pm. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Andy know if you plan to attend (301 990 1370).

REINSTATED MEMBERS: Welcome back!

John Curry, 9503 Burgee Place, Frederick MD 21704-7842, 240 405 9670, e-Mail: jjcurry9@yahoo.com.
Kellyn (2/03)

ROSTER CHANGES

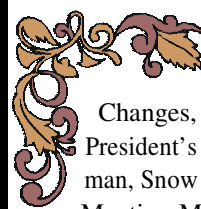
Donald Greaves' preferred E-Mail is dgreaves2@verizon.net.

EXHIBITORS DESPERATELY WANTED

Please share your interests and specimens with the world (or at least with visitors to the Show)!!!! Deadline extended - Send exhibit application forms NO later than March 6 to: Pat Repik-Byrne, 9 Starlight Court, Potomac, MD 20854, or <Kevin_byrne@comcast.net> or call Pat at 301-279-5962.

We need your participation to put on a GREAT SHOW .

DEADLINE for the April 2010 Rockhounder: March 29



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Like most of you, I am tired of the winter weather. Yes, ice is a mineral (a simple oxide, Dana number 4.1.2.1), but as I drive past the still too large mounds of ice and snow, I feel like I am trapped in a massive quarry. Quarries: a great place to visit, but even as a rockhound, I wouldn't want to live there! Spring will pull me out of these doldrums, and one of the events I most look forward to every spring is our club's annual show. This is our only show, and the proceeds generated from the show support most of our club activities for the entire year. Please attend the show, and even more importantly, please help make the show a success by volunteering. Many jobs remain unfilled, as do many display cases, so please contact our show chairs and participate! Our past shows have been remarkably successful, largely due the outstanding volunteer efforts of our club members. Please help us continue that proud tradition and become an active part of the show! Looking forward to seeing you at the March meeting and show.



Photo by W. Mohr

Eric Kindahl



SNOW CONTINGENCY Reminder: If schools in Montgomery County, MD are to be cancelled, or let out early, because of weather on the day of a scheduled Society meeting, we will have no meeting. Call the Society President or a Board Member (Numbers on the back of the ROCKHOUNDER) if in doubt.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR PERSON We continue in desperate need of someone to serve as Membership Chair for 2010. Please consider this opportunity to contribute to our Society. Our Membership Chair greets visitors, accepts applications from prospective members, collects dues, issues membership cards, and keeps records of our Society's enrollment. The person automatically becomes a member of the Board of Directors. **You** can do it. See Eric Kindahl to sign up!

TUCSON DEFINITIONS

By George Campbell, Ososoft Mineral

Keystone: 1/2 the price marked. The real retail price. Wholesale is less in most cases, as long as you buy in flat quantities.

Double Keystone: 1/4 the price marked. This stuff has been in the dealer's stock for years and hasn't sold, despite being at Tucson for two decades. But....look closely at this stuff...the dealer hasn't looked at it for years and there may be a Sleeper (see below) in there.

Wholesale: The price everyone but you is paying for the same specimens.

Flat: How my wallet looks after returning from Tucson. Also a flat cardboard box, roughly 12"x18" in size, more or less full of specimens, generally boxed and labeled.

Mexican Flat: A flat with no boxes....each specimen wrapped in very interesting foreign-language newspapers you can read after you get home. NOTE: The newspaper also hides the dings, bruises, and cracks. (see below)

Killer Specimen: One you can't afford.

Sleeper: That elusive specimen in the flat, which the seller missed. As in a Powellite specimen in a flat of cheap Indian zeolites.

Keeper: A specimen so overpriced that the dealer will be taking it home.

Flat Price: How much you pay for the entire flat. Generally, there's one specimen in there that makes the whole flat look good.

NFS: Not for sale. But everything's for sale.

Kid Rocks: Cheap specimens kept on hand so everyone buys.

New Find: The dealer just found this flat of specimens in the back of the storage locker just before the show.

Type Locality: Where you wish the specimen you're looking at came from.

Gemmy: You can see some light through the crystal, as long as the light is a halogen lamp.

Cutting Rough: Oops...the hydraulic trimmer worked a little too well.

Museum Specimen: A specimen too large to fit in any cabinet affordable by a collector. Double Keystone on this.

Clearance Specimens: Buy these or they'll be in the motel dumpster when the show's over.

Rare Species: Anything not available in at least 50% of the rooms at the show.

Mexico: The default locality for any specimen which has an unknown locality (See also: Pakistan) (See also: Russia)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES There are no minutes since the meeting was cancelled due to the record setting weather. Therefore there were no show table nor door prizes awarded as well.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board members present: Jeff Cessna, Mark Dahlman, Jonathan Harris, Eric Kindahl, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Pat Repik-Byrne. President Eric Kindahl called the February 15, 2010 meeting to order at 7:45 pm.



President: Eric is prepared attend the Eastern Federation meeting as a Director. Gerald Elgert has agreed to the responsibilities as delegate. A membership chair still needs to be identified.

Editor: Wendell delivered packages of records and items from Nancy Ballard to appropriate board members and reported on the contents. EFMLS membership cards will be offered to members on request. Exhibit forms were distributed again. Federation dues have been paid and officer sheet has been submitted. A small PA system came from Nancy. Jonathan will attempt to repair. Mark reported there is not one available at senior center. The board approved the show signage warning shoplifters of plain clothes officer. Sue Marcus donated geology related items to the club from Anna Marcus.

Field Trips: Jonathan reported that one family signed up for the Smithsonian Naturalist center. He will begin contacting quarries closer to collecting season. The board approves of the trip email list maintenance procedure and is appreciative of Jonathans efforts. There was discussion concluding that 3 hours is the longest most members seem willing to drive for trips.

Treasurer: Andy reported on the club finances. Show venue and security have been paid. Table and chair rental is awaiting a statement. All but one dealer's final balances are paid. Steve McNeil has agreed to audit the club financial records again.

Show Downstairs Chair: Pat reported on meager list of exhibit applications. Get yours in now. Club stalwarts the Michaelis' will pass their club show kids table duties and materials to a new eager club member this year. Interested? It was M/S/P to reimburse them for this years kid table supply expenses. Wendell will make a pitch for associated give-away donations with labels.

Show Chair: Mark investigated show PA rental. It was decided the benefits of PA use were not worth the \$200 fee. Mark will take over hourly door prize. The many show tasks previously performed by Nancy were discussed and divided up among those present or suggestions of who to approach were made. Front desk instructions are needed for volunteers. Andy will collect club coupons and reimburse dealers. Volunteers should sign in and out at the front desk. Wendell has indoor signs with map and key for locations. Andy will post them. Contents of program were discussed, as was the need to proof before the show. Advertising is in for March Rock & Gem, The Weekender, The Gazette, and Washington Parents Magazine.

It was M/S/P to renew Mini Miners Monthly for the one hard copy suggested by Holly. It was suggested to ask the FRA participants how to best administer the juniors door prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary.



FIELD TRIPS Jonathan G. Harris, Field Trip Chairman, Email (preferred) <jgharris7@gmail.com> or phone 301-545-0808.

Saturday March 27, 2010 Meet 7:30 AM at **Vulcan's Manassas Quarry**. Out by Noon or when the quarry employees have to leave. The rock is diabase, with one level having a layer of hornfels. This quarry has produced prehnite, apophyllite, calcite, amethyst, other quartz, chalcopyrite, pyrite, epidote, and zeolites -- stilbite, chabazite, heulandite, stellerite, and others.

Please let me know if you plan to attend by March 20 so I can provide the quarry with an accurate headcount. Children 10 and up are welcome if accompanied and well supervised by a parents and use the required safety gear.



We will be doing this jointly with the Northern Virginia Mineral Club. I will not be attending, so we will need someone to volunteer to serve as the group leader.

Directions: From the Beltway go West on IS 66. Take Exit 44, VA 234. Go 3.6 Miles. Turn left onto Wellington Lane. The quarry will be on your left, about 0.5 miles from VA 234.

Saturday April 10 National Limestone Quarry, Mt. Pleasant Mills PA. Time: 9 am at the quarry office until when group leader has to leave. Age: Children must be accompanied by a parent. Parent must remain close to child at all times. We will also invite the MD Geological Society and Northern Virginia Mineral Clubs. Our host has requested that we have at least 6 people. RSVP: Jonathan G. Harris

This is a great site for wavellite, strontianite, and more recently variscite and turquoise. Collectors should bring a specimen from some other location for Eric Stahl, the manager of National Limestone Quarry.

I may not be able to attend, so we need to have a group leader to keep things organized. Eric's rule as to when we can leave: when the group leader leaves! If you are willing to volunteer to be the group leader please let me know. The group leader responsibilities are simple--know who goes in and make sure they leave no later than you and insure people have and use the requisite safety gear. I can collect the names of people who sign up as usual. The leader is the primary person who interacts with the quarry personnel (it is easier for one person to do this than have ten) to get the safety presentation and forms filled out.

Mt. Pleasant Mills is about 3 to 3.5 hours away, but it is worth it! Children are permitted 10 and older, but a parent must stay near and supervise their children and leave the quarry with them if they get too restless to be safe.

Please RSVP by April 3. Quarries are now often requesting that we have a minimum number of people so that their employees' time will be used effectively. Thus it is important that people who sign up on these and other trips attend.

Directions from Rockville: Take I-270 north to Frederick and go north on US 15. After Liverpool PA leave US 15 and take PA 104 to the intersection with PA 35. This will be Mount Pleasant Mills PA.

From this junction, where there is a traffic light, go north on Route 104 about one-third of a mile and make the first left turn (Heister Valley Rd). Proceed a little ways to the first left turn on this road (T369 may be called Flint Valley Road) and you are at the Quarry entrance on the right.



Continued on next Page

FIELD TRIP REQUIREMENTS

Jonathan G. Harris, Field Trip Chairman

1. Required safety equipment: The following equipment is required for everyone, including minors. Hard Hat (ANSI Z89.1 certified for industrial head protection. These are readily available at home centers and hardware stores. Bike helmets and other sport helmets are NOT suitable), Eye protection, Steel toed shoes, Gloves, and Long pants, Fluorescent safety construction vest (some quarries will require these, we may not know ahead of time). Collectors missing required safety equipment will be asked to leave.



2. Children: I will post the age limits for each trip. In quarries where children are permitted, parents are responsible and assume all risk. Parents should stay with their children, watch them, and leave with them when they become too restless to be safely monitored. Children must have the safety equipment above.

3. General rules: Collectors must RSVP at least a week in advance. Quarries are hurting from the recession and don't want to send their employees out to supervise only two or three collectors, so we need to give an accurate headcount ahead of time. I will have to be less lax about this going forward. If I find I don't have enough people the Thursday or Friday before the trip, we may have to cancel. **DO NOT BE A NO-SHOW!** Collectors who are late may miss the safety briefing and hence the privilege of collecting. Please be on time! It is important to obey all instructions of the group leader and quarry employees. Failure to do so or unsafe behavior can lead to a collector being forbidden from future field-trips and other sanctions. All trips will have a group leader, either the field-trip chair or his designee. Most quarries don't want groups entering without a leader.

4. Collecting equipment: Water for drinking and rinsing potential specimens, newspaper for wrapping specimens, boxes, five gallon bucket (or something similar for schlepping things around), 3 to 5 pound blacksmith's hammer or hand held sledge (Do not use carpenter's hammers!), cold chisels (Use wood chisels only if you enjoy ruining your tools and showering yourself and your friends with shrapnel), long arm 8+ pound wrecking hammer (for breaking big boulders), old pocket knife or small screw driver for prying apart small delicate specimens, magnifying glass for examining smaller specimens.

**JUNIORS FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA "The MOCKS"**

By Holly McNeil

March 8th

The Future Rockhounds of America program scheduled for February and cancelled due to the weather will be held in March. We will cover plate tectonics and the minerals of the month for both February (Amethyst) and March (Aquamarine).

For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact Holly McNeil at: <fra_advisor@glmsmc.com> or 301-605-7179.



SAFETY A Note on Material Data Safety Sheets by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair



In the good ole USA federal law requires that all chemicals manufactured and/or distributed have a Material Data Safety Sheet or MSDS.

Sometimes they are included with the product, but either way there is always a phone number or website that will provide guidance on how to get an MSDS.

So although in Texas we are just now getting back into “hunting season” most of the rest of the country is wrapping it up since it’s going to be too cold to rock hunt soon. Subsequently a lot of folks will now be spending a lot more time cleaning and prepping their rocks and fossils. Since we have the potential to use a variety of chemicals in our labs, workshops, garages and kitchens, I thought I would take a bit of time to expound on the importance and value of an MSDS.

Generally speaking the MSDS is designed to provide information on physical characteristics and hazards. In more detail they are typically broken down into a standardized format:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Chemical Product Name and Manufacturer
Distributor ID | 7. Handling and Storage |
| 2. Composition and Ingredients | 8. Exposure Control and Personal Protection |
| 3. Hazard ID - A key area for notification of risks. | 9. Physical and Chemical Properties |
| 4. Measures | 10. Stability and Reactivity |
| 5. Fire-fighting Measures | 11. Toxicological Information |
| 6. Accidental Release Measures | 12. Disposal Considerations |
| | 13. Transport Information |
| | 14. Regulatory Information |



If you are using chemicals, oils, blasting media, cleaners, etc. in your efforts this winter please take the time to gather MSDS’s for these products and review the information contained therein. It can be quite enlightening! And, this information can help you prevent accidents or if there is one how to best respond to the situation. From the AFMS Newsletter – February 2010

WILDACRES WORKSHOP

by Steve Weinberger

The Spring EFMLS Wildacres Workshop is filling up fast. If you're interested in attending, be sure to get your reservation in the mail today. A complete list of classes and application form can be found at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm> [Or see Wendell Mohr. Ed.]

Our fall session, September 6th to 12th, will feature Lisa Carp as speaker in residence. Lisa is a Washington DC area jewelry expert and teacher who has a wealth of information to share. She'll be living with the group on campus and giving six talks during the week.

In addition to Lisa, those who attend will take classes, enjoy the wonderful peace and quiet of the Wildacres facility, enjoy other activities including an auction and field trip, and meet a terrific group of fellow mineral and gem enthusiasts.

Cost for either workshop session is \$350 per week plus a modest fee to cover materials in most classes. The workshop fee covers room and board plus gratuity for the Wildacres facility staff. Lodging is in comfortable rooms with private bath.

Come and find out about one of the best programs that the Eastern Federation has to offer. You'll be in for a fun week in a fabulous place.

Adapted from the EFMLS Newsletter, March 2010





OUR GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW will be at the Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds Mar. 20 & 21, only a few days away. Due to the snow cancellation of our February meeting, there are still many items remaining to be accomplished before the show.

★ Plan NOW to exhibit. Patricia Repik-Byrne, Exhibits Chair, has fewer than 20 exhibitor applications for the approximately 40 spaces. After signing up, prepare professional looking labels, and if you can, nice liners, risers, and other case features.

★ Show fliers and posters are available from George Durland for you to help publicize the show. Put up the posters at work or any establishment that will allow it. Tell your friends, neighbors, co-workers and anyone with whom you may be in contact about our event and give them fliers.

★ Mark Dahlman, Show Chairman, needs your help for a successful show. Help with Set-up on Friday, March 20th at 9:00 am. And don't forget to help take down Sunday night. Many hands makes easy work. Pat Repik-Byrne needs volunteers to work at the various openings throughout the show. The sign-up sheets will be E- mailed for those with E Mail to sign up. They will also be at the March meeting for the final opportunity to be completed.

★ We need people to bring labeled specimens for the "Touch and Feel" exhibit. They should not be delicate things but some that the children can actually touch. We also need you to dig out all those extra specimens you have been saving for no particularly good reason and make them available for the kids at the give-away table. We do ask that you make labels for each including the name of the mineral(s) or fossil(s) and, importantly, the statement: "Compliments of the GLMSMC along with the Society web site address: <http://www.glmsmc.com/>.

★ The best junior exhibit in the show will be given the Lillian Turner Award, a \$100 U.S. savings bond. The rules say that you must be age 17 or younger and the case should be substantially your own work. If you have won previously, the case must be substantially different from the previous entry. Juniors, give it a go.

ROCKVILLE SCIENCE DAY 2009 INVITATION TO EXHIBIT. Any volunteers to handle an exhibit or demonstration on Sunday, April 26, 2009, Noon to 5 pm, at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus? Set-up is Saturday, April 25, 4 to 6 p.m. & Sunday April 26, 10 a.m. to noon. It is an opportunity to educate young people as well as to enlist new members in our Society. If you intend to participate, let Eric Kindahl know.

NAME BADGES You may have noticed that some members have nice blue badges with the Society logo. New members are given the opportunity to purchase them for \$5.25 each. All are strongly encouraged to have and use one. It has been called to the attention of the Board that some members do not remember being asked, and perhaps the question missed some long time members. The Membership Chair (What? Who? Position is open. How about you volunteering?) has the forms for ordering them. Also the Treasurer has Embroidered Society Patches (About 3" Diameter) available @ \$2.00.



SUNSHINE

Best wishes to David Ballard who continues in rehab at The Virginian, 9229 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax VA 22031, Dogwood Terrace, Room 49B. His phone is 703 279 3449. Call or send him a card.

SHOWS/EVENTS

March 6-7: 47th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show hosted by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Delaware Technical & Community College, Churchman's Road (DE Route 58), Newark (Stanton) DE. EFMLS 60th Annual Meeting is Friday March 5th.

**MARCH 20-21: OUR OWN SHOW, Montgomery County Fairgrounds
10 to 6 Saturday, 10 to 5 Sunday. BE AND VOLUNTEER THERE.**

March 26-28: Elkridge, MD - 37th Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference hosted by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. MHA Conference Center, Elkridge, MD. Registration & Information: Steve Weinberger, <cscystals2@verizon.net > or 410 833 7927.

March 27-28: Chambersburg, PA, 32nd Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show, sponsored by The Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club. Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, PA.

April 24th ONLY: The World famous Sterling Hill Mine Super Dig, 30 Plant Street, Ogdensburg NJ, 07439, rain or shine, sponsored by the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society and Northeast Field Trip Alliance, in cooperation with the Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Guaranteed all fresh material excavated. 9 am to 11 pm. \$20 registration by check, \$21 by PayPal, plus Pound rate: \$1.50/pound. 5 to 12 year olds can dig in "Mine Run Dump" with an adult. 12 years and older can dig in the pits (preferably with an adult). Registration at <www.uvworld.org>. For payment by check, mail early. If for some reason you cannot complete the registration on-line by April 20th, noon, deadline, mail check for DVESS to PO Box 372, Maple Shade, NJ 08052 and mention that you have not registered on-line. Minimum 100 people required with a maximum OF 200. (Mention that GLMSMC is covered by EFMLS liability insurance.)

April 24-25: 38th Annual NJ Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show (with outdoor swap) co-sponsored by the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society, New Jersey Earth Science Association, and the Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Franklin School, Franklin NJ.

NEW RECORD ANCIENT CRUST: 4.28 Ga (1 Ga = 1 billion years ago)

Canada has always had a reputation for ancient rocks, but the September 26, 2008 *Science* puts a new jewel in Canada's crown in a paper reporting a bedrock outcrop that dates back to approximately 4.28 billion years, well into the Hadean eon (or, for purists, the Eoarchean Era.) The previous oldest known rock, from about 4.03 Ga, was the Acasta gneiss, also Canadian.

The locality is in the Nuvvuagittuq greenstone belt by Porpoise Cove, way up by the north tip of Labrador on Hudson Bay. This photo, by coauthor Don Francis of McGill University, shows the look of the country side there, scraped clean and flat by generations of glaciers. It's a geologist's dreamland. The Saskatoon StarPhoenix reports that the local Inuit tribe that oversees the site is pondering its potential for tourism. I know I'd go see it.



From Andrew Alden, Sep 29, 2008
About.com fair use.

Shake sits in the Nuvvuagittuq
Courtesy Don Francis



A QUICK LOOK AT VANADINITE

By Aaron Hendricks, CSMS Pebble Pup.



A close-up view of a Vanadinite specimen from Morocco.
© 2009, by A. Hendricks. A. Hendricks collection.

Vanadinite is one of my favorite minerals. I chose to write about it because it is so cool looking. When I decided to become a geologist, my mom helped me join a rockhound group on Yahoo. That's when a gentleman from Alabama said he would send me some samples. On July 7, 2009 we got the box. I was so excited to open it up; and there it was, a piece of Vanadinite! My mom and I cataloged it into my collection. Then I looked at it with my loupe lens. I like how it looks—as if there are a thousand giant crystals on it. I also love the reddish color. After observing the specimen we put it in a display, and I set out to learn more about the mineral.

Most of my information came from a book called Simon & Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals and online sources. The specimen was labeled with a tag stating it was from Mibladen, Morocco. Morocco is well-known for its fossils and minerals. Mibladen is one of the world's top producers of Vanadinite. I'm so grateful to own a piece for myself.

Vanadinite is a lead mineral colored by vanadium and is generally red, brown, or yellowish in color. It is part of a series with two other minerals; they are pyromorphite ($Pb_5(VO_4)3Cl$) and mimetite ($Pb_5(AsO_4)3Cl$). Vanadinite is translucent so you can see light through it but not objects. The Moh's hardness for Vanadinite is 2.75-3.00 (harder than gypsum and softer than fluorite), and its luster is adamantine (brilliant like diamond). The crystals are usually hexagonal prisms but often can be skeletal or cavernous. Its streak color is yellowish and has a brittle uneven fracture. My favorite thing about this mineral is the fact that it is fusible. That means it can be fused or melted to another material through heat or pressure. Someday I'd like to melt some of the crystals and make a piece of jewelry even though it's mainly used in industrial building and chemicals.

If you are reading this and have never held or viewed a real live sample of this mineral, you need to. I believe it is such an interesting thing to look at and observe. This is one of the minerals that sparked my interests and made me want to discover more about minerals.

About the author: Aaron Hendricks is a 10-year-old future geologist. He lives in Yukon, OK and is active in CSMS via the Internet. He is participating in the Pebble Pups program and is earning AFMS FRA badges.

From Colorado Springs Mineralogical Soc., "Pick&Pack", Sep. 2009

Wendell Mohr sent a package of minerals from our area to Aaron.
How about an article of this sort in the *Rockhounder* from one of our own Junior FRA members?



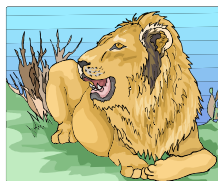
Photo used with permission of author

**FROM THE ROCKHOUND DICTIONARY:**

- Findings: Stuff you find.
 - Faceting: A complex way to ruin a good mineral.
 - Friend: One who can see the star in your sapphire.
 - Geode: A poem to G. (often written in hollow verse)
 - Grinding Wheel: A bearing going out on your old truck.
 - Fortification: Two twenty fications; a large gulp of good whiskey.
 - Gentleman: A man who holds the door open for his wife to carry the rocks in.
 - Diamond: The hardest stone known to man to get back from his old girlfriend.
- from Strata Gem, July/Aug 2005 via The Shin-Skinner, 11/07 via Rockcollector Rochester Lapidary Society Feb 2008

WEB SITES

By Wendell Mohr



I'm not Lyin',  These are Good Sites

Volcano Photography, <<http://www.volcanica.com>>, by Dr. Richard Roscoe of Munich, Germany, affords a wonderful site, not only with photographs, but also with meaningful explanatory text. I think you will find it informative if you check out day time and night time pictures, lava, hot springs, fumaroles, volcanic destruction, and volcanic landscapes.



- The mailman was struck by flying volcanic bombs. What did he say? "Return to Sender."●

USGS Photo ▶

Earth Science Picture of the Day, <<http://epod.usra.edu/blog/>> is a service of NASA's Earth Science Division, the EOS Project Science Office at Goddard, and the Universities Space Research Association. To appreciate the diversity of the site visit the archives going back to 2000. Check out: Categories, About EPOD, Frequently Asked Questions, and Links. You may subscribe to receive the picture of the day on your computer. As a foot note you may vie to have one of your own pictures published.

- The geologist said, "Here we have cross bedded sandstone. This represents wind deposited sediments on land." I said, "I get your drift!" My wife and I actually visited the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado. How did we find out about it, you ask? We read it in the sand paper.●



USGS Photo ▶



Alan Guisewhite's Minerals Collection Images,

<<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~adg/adg-piimages.html>> gives you a chance to see more pictures. This site is the work of a man who is a senior research technician at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. PA. See his collection pages and select what you would like to view. Clicking on the specimen shown will give you an enlarged view and, sometimes, multiple pictures.

- His motto is Prudential's motto: "Get a Piece of the Rock."●

Photo: by W. Mohr

MARCH MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Judith Barr, Marcia Conron Baum, Jack Busch, Leila Campbell, Dylan Cincotta, Rebecca Dahlman, George Durland, Cynthia Hunter-Shupe, Jane Kuehn, Diane Leaman, Gary Leaman, Mary Beth Mason, Robert Pepper, Patricia Repik-Byrne, Paul Vance, Harold Williams.



EFMLS MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies supplies us with EFMLS membership cards. If you wish to have a card for your own use, ask our yet-to-be-named Membership chairman or Wendell Mohr for one.

SOCIETY HISTORY

BY JACK BUSCH

SPRINGTIME 1995 Nope, there was no fooling around in April, the month's activities began right off with a field trip on the 8th going to old friend Medford Quarry. According to Field Trip Chair Terry Cirrincione the day was a beautiful one weather-wise, and that loused things up since the quarry boss decided to take advantage of the sunshine to put his entire crew to work in most of the quarry's areas. Thus collecting was restricted to one section in an old part of the quarry. Nevertheless, some specimens of malachite, bornite, and many varieties of calcite were found.

The trip was followed a couple of days later by April's meeting. The evening's speaker was Warren Redford – no dear, not Robert – the Region IV Vice President of the Eastern Federation who had come up from Norfolk VA to present a program on wire-wrapping to produce jewelry and sculpture. He discussed tools, materials, and techniques used in the process. He brought some of his work, together with a selection of slides, to augment his presentation, together making a very enjoyable and informative program.

Among several new members inducted at the meeting was Charles Mason who still is a (very) active member. You may know him as Chuck. Apparently he doesn't resent being addressed as such, unlike Dr. Winchester of M.A.S.H. on TV.

Like the field trip mentioned above, the 46th Annual Montgomery Area Science Fair was held on April 8th. This prevented some members from attending the trip to Medford as they had volunteered to serve as special judges for geology related science projects. The Fair is no small event as 421 students from 41 County public and private schools participated, entering 362 projects (some were team projects). Luckily, Jack Nelson, Wendell Mohr, and Ginger Posthumus had to judge only a few of the projects. Even so, it was a bit of a task to select 3 winners, but they managed to do so, selecting: Aaron S. Andalman and Marc G. Hudacko for their joint effort in preparing a project entitled "Bonding and Electron Density in Crystals"; Deepti Rohatgi's project on "The Volcanic Origin of Lahars"; and Sujoy C. Tagore's exploration of "The Oxygen Fugacity and Anorthosite Crystalline Composition." All winners received a check and a year's membership in the society.

Since Easter Season is upon us, I thought I'd reprise an ova-related article Editor Nancy placed in the May 1995 "Rockhounder." As a preface, just about all of us are familiar with the fabulous Fabergé eggs, so Nancy reprinted this item which appeared in an issue of South Dakota Tribune in 1993:

THE ULTIMATE EASTER EGG by Micky Tirk

Back in 1993 jewelers Kutchinsky, whose audacious creations are de rigueur in some jet set circles said they had crafted the ultimate Easter Egg. The two-foot-high egg, made from 37 pounds of gold and studded with 20,000 pink diamonds, went on sale for \$11.3 million back then.

"So far as we know, it is the biggest decorative egg of its kind in the world and contains the largest single collection of rare pink diamonds in anyone piece," said designer Paul Kutchinsky.

The egg opens electronically, to reveal a miniature library with cabinets and books. A carousel then revolves to display a tiny portrait gallery where the eventual owners could feature their family. The piece took 7,000 hours to complete.

Kutchinsky hopes it will be bought by a museum and displayed but the most likely buyer would be royalty or a head of state. The egg was unveiled on April 11, 1993 just before Easter in London.

The London jewelers see the egg following in the Fabergé tradition.

I never heard of this egg before or since, so am not sure if it was for real. If it was, I wonder if Mr. Kutchinsky found a buyer.

[If it didn't sell quickly, I bet it would have if it had the Fabergé style bacon to go with it! Ed.]

See you at the Show.



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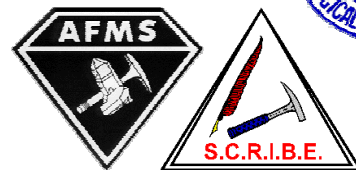
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